

Abstract

The diploma thesis deals with psychological aspects of interrogation. The aim of the thesis is to describe general psychological aspects of interrogation, contained in scientific publications in comparison to practical knowledge, gathered by experienced police detectives. The thesis covers both psychological aspects of interrogated person as well as the interrogator. The thesis is comprised of four parts, each divided into chapters and subchapters.

In the first part, the focus of the thesis is on testimony, its creation and above all verifying its credibility, as the primary aim of an interrogation is to achieve a complete and credible testimony. In the thesis, there are mentioned psychological methods how to achieve such a testimony, and at the same time how to avoid psychological errors of the investigator.

The core of the thesis is dedicated to the topic of psychology of interrogation. This part is divided into three chapters; first chapter describes perception level of both interrogator and interrogated, the second covers the mutual interaction of both parties, and the third one their mutual communication. The communication level is a major part of psychology of interrogation, as the interrogated person expresses themselves not only by spoken word, but also by nonverbal cues such as facial expression or body language.

At the conclusion of the thesis, specific aspects of some particular types of interrogation are introduced. The major part is dedicated to interrogation of children, elderly or psychically ill.

The whole thesis contains excerpts from interviews with former police detective Jiří Markovič and current police detective, working in 'Kriminalistický ústav Praha Policie ČR'. The information from interviews is compared with knowledge in scientific publications concerning this topic. General finding of the thesis is that there is no single set of rules on how to lead an interrogation. Instead, it is necessary that the interrogator is an experienced professional, who takes all specifics and aspects of the interrogation of a particular person into account.